

I was thoroughly impressed to learn that, through his dedication to his studies; Mr. Shahdaiah earned a grade point average of 3.6 and was inducted into the National Society of High School Scholars.

As a highly accomplished student-athlete, he served the U.S.A. International Football Team as Captain, Team Ambassador and starting linebacker, in addition to exalting fervent school pride, during his junior year as a highly valued teammate of the Dekaney Wildcats, his high school varsity track and football teams.

Expanding the bounds of his requisite studies, he explored his curiosities for the world of science becoming a member of the Texas High School Engineering Career and Technology Council.

I join his family and many admirers in genuinely celebrating Mr. Shahdaiah's life and outstanding contributions.

Quincy was one of the world's best comedians; he had the ability to make anyone who came into contact with him laugh.

All who knew Mr. Williams admired his prowess for presentation. Deemed one of the "Sharpest" brothers you'd meet.

Mr. Williams was affectionately called by his parents a "Junior"; and was one of the most outgoing, lovable kids that a parent could ever want.

Although young in body Mr. Williams was old in song; he was a profound lover of any and all Motown Performers and would listen to them regularly.

While at Andy Dekaney High school Quincy became branded as the "Soul Brother" of the football team.

These two young men cultivated their efforts, positioning themselves to successfully matriculate in May of 2016; and, but for their ill-fated passing, would by all accounts have celebrated their well-deserved accomplishments with their families as a milestone achievement in their young lives.

While I have no doubt they would have realized countless ambitions, we are left to accept that their dreams of immeasurable magnitude now rest with them.

These young men worked hard.

I cannot think of a more solemn manner of celebrating their life than to honor their efforts by bestowing upon their families recognition of the achievement for which they so ardently strode.

In the words of Booker T. Washington "Character is power".

Character truly is power and that power was present in the lives of these prolific young men.

Yes, their lives were cut short, but with what time they did have they effectively made the best of it.

Heaven has truly gained a dynamic pair of angels, while young Mr. Shahdaiah's and Mr. Williams families lost their most promising stars.

Please join me in a moment of silence for the life of Sarid Chaim Shahdaiah and Quincy Gemal Williams.

TRIBUTE TO SANDRA THORSTENSON

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 27, 2016

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the lifelong service and success of Sandra Thorstenson, the Superintendent of Whittier Union School District, in my Congressional District in California.

You could say that the Whittier Union School District is part of Sandra's DNA. After moving to Whittier at the age of five, Sandy went on to graduate from Whittier High School, attended Whittier College, and from there, launched a 39-year career as a teacher, principal, and Superintendent of the district.

While I think Sandy's lifelong dedication to educating young people is reason enough to celebrate, I would be remiss not to mention the success that has made her a leader in improving education for low-income students. Under her leadership, Whittier Union's motto has been "demographics do not determine destiny." The results of this attitude are clear. In a district with nearly 70 percent economically-disadvantaged students, Whittier Union sports a 97 percent graduation rate and sends 95 percent of its students on for a higher education.

Ms. Thorstenson embodies the kind of public servant and leader we need more of in education, someone who is unwilling to settle for anything less than success for every student in her district. It is in that spirit that, on behalf of all the families who've benefitted from her service, I wish Sandra a happy retirement and thank her for inspiring generations of students in the Whittier Union School District.

TRIBUTE TO BRUCE PEARSON

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 27, 2016

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the retirement of Bruce Pearson, who has been City Manager of Pleasanton, Texas since 2012.

Mr. Pearson was born and raised in Waco, Texas where he attended Richfield High School. He later graduated Summa Cum Laude from Texas State University-San Marcos and received a Master's Degree from the University of Texas at San Antonio in Public Administration where he was a Recognized Scholar. Mr. Pearson also holds a Certified Public Manager's Certification from the William P. Hobby Center for Public Service at Texas State University.

In 2000, Mr. Pearson began working for the San Antonio Water System, where he was involved in the implementation of a revolutionary water recycling system that provides over 35,000 acre feet of water for non-potable uses throughout San Antonio. The water recycling program remains the largest in the country to date. The Water Reuse Foundation recognized Mr. Pearson for his contributions to water conservation efforts in 2005. Addition-

ally, Mr. Pearson advised on the design of a customer service and site certification manual for the Water Reuse Foundation, and worked on the Cibola Canyons Professional Golfers' Association Project for the San Antonio Water System.

Mr. Pearson began his career in public service in 2008 when he was named Assistant City Manager for the City of Cibola. As Assistant City Manager, he oversaw the implementation of a capital improvement project that allowed the city to build a new police and fire Station, a public park, and to reconstruct the city's Main Street. In 2012, Mr. Pearson was named City Manager for the City of Pleasanton; a position through which he contributed to the city's growth, development, and prosperity. He oversaw the development and implementation of a multifaceted city master plan, a parks master plan, and contributed to the design and construction of a civic center, library, and the Freedom Center Project. Mr. Pearson has done an extraordinary job of bringing a vision of long term progress in every community he has worked in.

In addition to his impressive career in public service and municipal development, Mr. Pearson is a devoted father and grandfather.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Bruce Pearson for his extensive achievements and important contributions to the communities of Cibola and Pleasanton, Texas.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 27, 2016

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, my vote was not recorded this week. I was absent because I was traveling with President Barack Obama to Vietnam. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: Roll Call No. 235: Aye; Roll Call No. 237: Nay; Roll Call No. 238: Aye; Roll Call No. 248: Nay; Roll Call No. 250: Nay; Roll Call No. 266: Nay; and Roll Call No. 268: Nay.

HONORING MS. FIONA BULLOCK

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 27, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Fiona Bullock, who will retire after 26 years of service as an educator and institutional leader at Pacific Union College.

Ms. Bullock completed her Bachelor of Arts in Social Work at Pacific Union College in 1983, before going on to earn her Masters of Social Welfare at the University of California, Berkeley in 1990.

After completing her degree, Ms. Bullock spent 26 years in the Social Work Program at her alma mater, Pacific Union College. During her time at Pacific Union College she has held positions, including Associate Professor, Field Supervisor, Forum Sponsor, and Program Director. Ms. Bullock has also contributed to the field of social work through her research and the numerous books and articles she has authored. Throughout her career, Ms. Bullock